

NSC BRIEFING

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25 July 1957

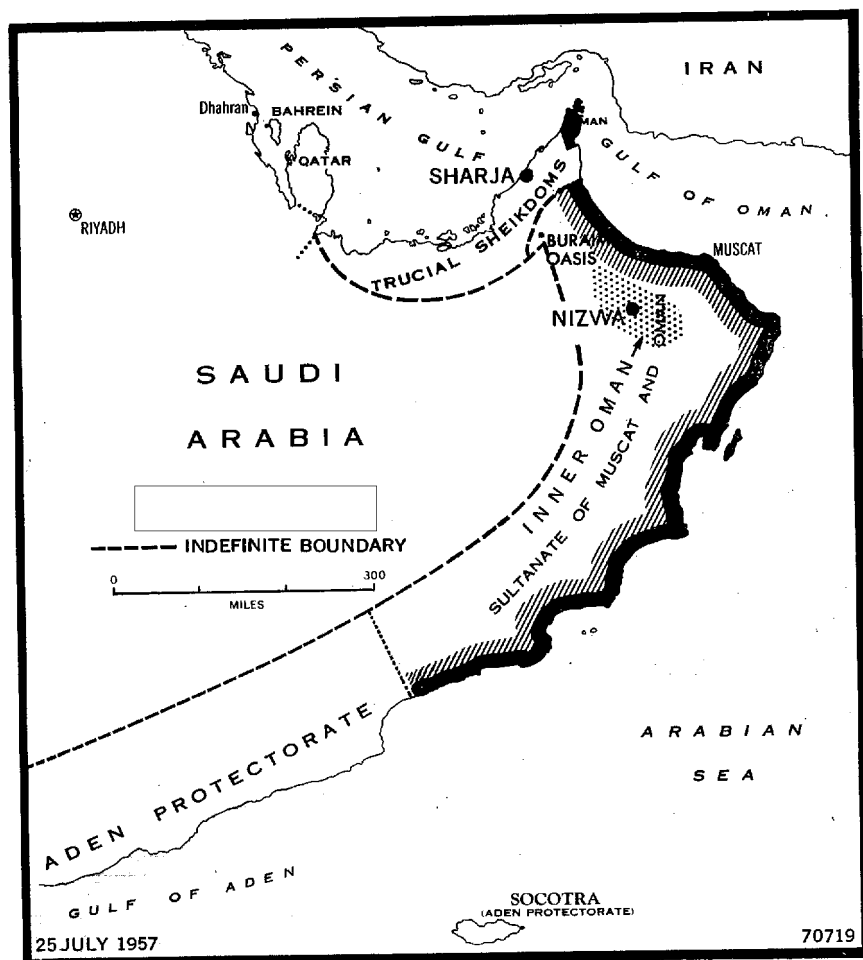
OMAN AND MUSCAT

- I. On 24 July, British official on Bahrein stated that Sultan of Muscat's forces (about 800 men) had been outmaneuvered by 700-man "Omani Liberation Army", and that some of his forces may have defected to the Imam.
 - A. He said Sultan now has no effective force which can be used in interior.
 - B. Britain has airlifted two companies of troops from Kenya to Sharja in the Trucial States to reinforce British-led Trucial Oman Scouts (800 men). These forces will probably secure Buraimi and contain area of rebellion.
 - C. However, British hope to break rebellion with air strikes against mud forts held by dissidents.
 1. In show of force yesterday, they severely damaged unoccupied fort at Iski, near Nizwa.
 2. Press says that today RAF is attacking Nizwa fort, which is occupied by Imam's forces.
 - D. Meanwhile, US consul-general in Dhahran reports that a self-styled Omani representative has appealed for US intercession to halt British counteraction.
- II. In talk with Ambassador Whitney on 23 July, British Foreign Secretary Lloyd minimized scale of military action in Oman, and indicated UK still hopes to arrange talks between Saudi Arabia and Muscat on border problems.

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- A. Lloyd suggested King Saud be informed that UK does not plan to magnify affair, whatever the provocation, but concluded "if we don't bat this down, we will have trouble with other areas around the Coast of Arabia.
- B. So far, British report that Kuwait and Bahrein are quiet, but that there is tension in the Trucial States and probably Qatar.



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